In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows.

Please cancel claims 13, 14, 71-73, 96-98, 141-145, 155-156, and 166-167.

The following lists all claims and their status:

1. (currently amended) A device used in surgical procedures to reconstruct an enlarged left ventricle of a human heart, the device comprising:

a shaper~~,~~ having a size and shape substantially similar to the size and shape of an appropriate left ventricle, wherein the size of the appropriate left ventricle is less than the size of the enlarged left ventricle, ~~and~~ wherein the shaper is adapted to be temporarily placed in~~to~~ the enlarged left ventricle during a surgical procedure, and wherein the shaper is configured such that, when temporarily placed in the enlarged left ventricle during a surgical procedure, the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the enlarged left ventricle.

2. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein the shaper comprises an expandable balloon, such that when the balloon is in a substantially inflated condition, the balloon is a size and shape substantially equal to the size and shape of an appropriate left ventricle.

3. (original) The device of claim 2 wherein when the balloon is in an inflated condition, the balloon cannot be substantially expanded.

4. (original) The device of claim 2 wherein the balloon is in an inflated condition, the balloon maintains the shape of an appropriate left ventricle while being further inflated.

5. (original) The device of claim 2 wherein the balloon is filled with fluid.

6. (original) The device of claim 5 wherein the fluid is a gel.

7. (original) The device of claim 6 wherein the gel is silicone.

8. (original) The device of claim 2 further comprising:
a tube in fluid communication with an interior of the balloon,
a pressurized fluid reservoir in fluid communication with the tube, and
a valve coupled to the tube for maintaining a pressure of the pressurized fluid.

9. (original) The device of claim 8 further comprising a means to monitor the pressure of the pressurized fluid.

10. (original) The device of claim 8 wherein the pressurized fluid reservoir is a syringe.

11. (original) The device of claim 8 further comprising a means to withdraw the pressurized fluid from the tube.

12. (original) The device of claim 11 wherein the means to withdraw the pressurized fluid is a syringe.

13-28 (cancelled)

29. (previously presented) The device of claim 1 having a non-circular shape.

30. (previously presented) The device of claim 29 wherein the shaper has a short and a long axis.

31. (previously presented) The device of claim 30 wherein the ratio of short to long axis is about 0.5.

32. (currently amended) The device ~~system~~ of claim 1, wherein the shaper is substantially ellipsoid in shape.

33. (currently amended) The device ~~system~~ of claim 1, wherein the shaper is substantially conical in shape.

34. (currently amended) The device ~~system~~ of claim 1, wherein the shaper is substantially pear shaped.

35. (currently amended) The device ~~system~~ of claim 1, wherein the shaper is substantially tear drop shaped.

36. (previously presented) A method for reconstructing an enlarged left ventricle of a human heart, the method comprising:

opening the enlarged left ventricle,

placing a shaper into the enlarged left ventricle, the shaper having a size and shape substantially equal to the size and shape of an appropriate left ventricle,

reforming the enlarged left ventricle over the shaper,

removing the shaper from the enlarged left ventricle, and

closing the opening, such that the enlarged left ventricle is reconstructed into a shape and volume of an appropriate left ventricle.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising:

determining a demarkation line between non-viable tissue and viable tissue,

excluding some of the non-viable tissue,

placing at least one suture along the demarkation line, and

pulling the suture such that the left ventricle is pulled around the shaper.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the determining of the demarkation line further comprises engaging a wall of the left ventricle of a beating heart to sense tactile feedback.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the determining of the demarkation line further comprises visually determining akinetic and viable tissue.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the determining of the demarkation line further comprises detecting electrical pulses from the viable tissue.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the closing step comprises suturing a patch to an interior of the left ventricle.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the closing step comprises suturing a patch along the at least one demarkation line.

43. (currently amended) The method of claim 36 wherein the reforming step further comprises:

pulling the enlarged left ventricle over the shaper,

suturing the left ventricle such that an interior surface of the left ventricle substantially conforms to the shape of the shaper, and

partially closing the opening.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising excluding scar tissue from the viable tissue.

45. (currently amended) A device used in surgical procedures to reconstruct an enlarged left ventricle of a human heart, the device comprising:

a shaper~~,~~ having a size and shape which substantially defines the size and shape of the appropriate left ventricle, wherein the shaper is to be placed int~~o~~ the enlarged left ventricle during a surgical procedure, and wherein the shaper is configured such that, when temporarily placed in the enlarged left ventricle during a surgical procedure, the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the enlarged left ventricle.

46. (previously presented) The device of claim 45 wherein the shaper comprises an expandable balloon, such that when the balloon is substantially inflated, the balloon defines the size and shape of appropriate left ventricle.

47. (previously presented) The device of claim 46 wherein the balloon is in an inflated condition, the balloon maintains its shape which defines the intended left ventricle, while, being further inflated.

48. (currently amended) A method of reconstructing an enlarged left ventricle of a human heart, the method comprising:

opening the enlarged left ventricle,

placing a sha~~r~~per into the enlarged left ventricle, the shaper having a size and shape which substantially defines the size and shape of the appropriate left ventricle,

reforming the enlarged left ventricle over the shaper,

removing the shaper from the enlarged left ventricle, and

closing the opening, such that the enlarged left ventricle is reconstructed into a shape and size as intended.

49. (currently amended) A shaping system, comprising:

a shaper positionable in a left ventricle of a human heart during use, wherein the shaper ~~is configurable to expand~~ comprises ~~to~~ a predetermined shape ~~in the left ventricle during use~~, ~~and~~ wherein the predetermined shape acts as a pattern to reconstruct the left ventricle about the shaper during use, and wherein the shaper is configured such that, when temporarily placed in the left ventricle during a surgical procedure, the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the left ventricle.

50. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper comprises an expandable balloon.

51. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper comprises an expandable balloon, and wherein the expandable balloon has a wall thickness of about 0.02 inches to about 0.08 inches.

52. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper comprises an expandable balloon, and wherein the expandable balloon has a wall thickness of less than about 0.08 inches.

53. (currently amended) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper comprises an expandable balloon, wherein the expandable balloon ~~has~~ comprises a first wall thickness and a second wall thickness, wherein at least the first wall thickness and the second wall thickness are different, and wherein the first wall thickness and the second wall thickness inhibit deformation of the shape ~~selectively varies as a function of the expansion~~ of the balloon

during expansion of the balloon.

54. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper comprises a predetermined contour.

55. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the shaper.

56. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the shaper, and wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the shaper to the predetermined shape.

57. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the shaper, wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the shaper to the predetermined shape, and wherein the fluid is a gel.

58. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the shaper, wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the shaper to the predetermined shape, and wherein the fluid comprises silicone.

59. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper is configured to inhibit expansion beyond a predetermined point.

60. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper is configured to inhibit distortion of the predetermined shape when expanded.

61. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, further comprising a tube coupled to the

shaper, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the shaper.

62. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, further comprising a tube coupled to the shaper, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the shaper from a pressurized fluid reservoir.

63. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, further comprising a tube coupled to the shaper, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the shaper from a pressurized fluid reservoir, and further comprising a valve coupled to the tube, wherein the valve is configurable to maintain a pressure of the fluid.

64. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper has a short axis and a long axis.

65. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper is expanded to the predetermined shape.

66. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper has a short axis and a long axis, and wherein the ratio of the short axis to the long axis is from about 0.3 to about 0.7.

67. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper is substantially ellipsoid in shape.

68. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper is substantially conical in shape.

69. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper is substantially pear shaped.

70. (previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper is substantially tear drop shaped.

71-73 (cancelled)

74. (currently amended) A shaping system, comprising:

a shaper positionable in a left ventricle of a human heart during use, wherein the shaper ~~is configurable to expand to~~comprises a predetermined shape ~~during use~~, wherein the predetermined shape is different than a geometry of the left ventricle, ~~and~~ wherein the predetermined shape acts as a pattern to reconstruct the left ventricle about the shaper during use, and wherein the shaper is configured such that, when temporarily placed in the left ventricle during a surgical procedure, the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the left ventricle.

75. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper comprises an expandable balloon.

76. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper comprises an expandable balloon, and wherein the expandable balloon has a wall thickness of about 0.02 inches to about 0.08 inches.

77. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper comprises an expandable balloon, and wherein the expandable balloon has a wall thickness of less than about 0.08 inches.

78. (currently amended) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper comprises an expandable balloon, wherein the expandable balloon ~~has~~ comprises a first wall thickness and a second wall thickness, wherein at least the first wall thickness and the second wall thickness are different, and wherein the first wall thickness and the second wall thickness inhibit deformation of the shape ~~selectively varies as a function of the expansion~~ of the balloon during expansion of the balloon.

79. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper comprises a predetermined contour.

80. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the shaper.

81. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the shaper, and wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the shaper to the predetermined shape.

82. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the shaper, wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the shaper to the predetermined shape, and wherein the fluid is a gel.

83. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the shaper, wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the shaper to the predetermined shape, and wherein the fluid comprises silicone.

84. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper is configured to inhibit

expansion beyond a predetermined point.

85. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper is configured to inhibit distortion of the predetermined shape when expanded.

86. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper is expanded to the predetermined shape.

87. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, further comprising a tube coupled to the shaper, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the shaper.

88. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, further comprising a tube coupled to the shaper, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the shaper from a pressurized fluid reservoir.

89. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, further comprising a tube coupled to the shaper, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the shaper from a pressurized fluid reservoir, and further comprising a valve coupled to the tube, wherein the valve is configurable to maintain a pressure of the fluid.

90. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper has a short axis and a long axis.

91. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper has a short axis and a long axis, and wherein the ratio of the short axis to the long axis is about 0.3 to about 0.7.

92. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper is substantially ellipsoid

in shape.

93. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper is substantially conical in shape.

94. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper is substantially pear shaped.

95. (previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the shaper is substantially tear drop shaped.

96-98 (cancelled)

99. (currently amended) A shaping system, comprising:

a shaper positionable in a left ventricle of a human heart during use, wherein the shaper comprises a hollow, wherein the shaper is configurable to expand to a predetermined shape during use, ~~and~~ wherein the predetermined shape acts as a pattern to reconstruct the left ventricle about the shaper during use, and wherein the shaper is configured such that, when temporarily placed in the left ventricle during a surgical procedure, the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the left ventricle; and

a gel positionable in the hollow, wherein the gel is configurable to expand the shaper to the predetermined shape during use.

100. (previously presented) The system of claim 99, wherein the gel comprises silicone.

101. (previously presented) The system of claim 99, further comprising a tube coupled to the hollow, wherein the tube is configurable to convey the gel to the cavity of the shaper.

102. (previously presented) The system of claim 99, further comprising a tube coupled to the hollow, wherein the tube is configurable to convey the gel to the hollow from a pressurized gel reservoir.

103. (previously presented) The system of claim 99, further comprising a tube coupled to the hollow, wherein the tube is configurable to convey the gel to the hollow from a pressurized gel reservoir, and further comprising a valve coupled to the tube, wherein the valve is configurable to maintain a pressure of the gel.

104. (currently amended) A shaping system, comprising:

a shaper positionable in a left ventricle of a human heart during use, wherein the shaper comprises a hollow, wherein the shaper is configurable to expand to a predetermined shape during use, ~~and~~ wherein the predetermined shape acts as a pattern to reconstruct the left ventricle about the shaper during use, and wherein the shaper is configured such that, when temporarily placed in the left ventricle during a surgical procedure, the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the left ventricle; and

an expander positionable in the hollow of the shaper during use, wherein the expander is configurable to expand the shaper to the predetermined shape during use.

105. (previously presented) The system of claim 104, wherein the expander is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the expander.

106. (previously presented) The system of claim 104, wherein the expander is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the expander, and wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the expander.

107. (previously presented) The system of claim 104, wherein the expander is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the expander, wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the expander, and wherein the fluid is a gel.

108. (previously presented) The system of claim 104, wherein the expander is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the expander, wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the expander, and wherein the fluid comprises silicone.

109. (previously presented) The system of claim 104, wherein at least the shaper is configured to inhibit expansion beyond a predetermined point.

110. (previously presented) The system of claim 104, wherein at least the shaper is configured to inhibit distortion of the predetermined shape when expanded.

111. (previously presented) The system of claim 104, further comprising a tube coupled to the expander, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the expander.

112. (previously presented) The system of claim 104, further comprising a tube coupled to the expander, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the expander from a pressurized fluid reservoir.

113. (previously presented) The system of claim 104, further comprising a tube coupled to the expander, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the expander from a pressurized fluid reservoir, and further comprising a valve coupled to the tube, wherein the valve is configurable to maintain a pressure of the fluid.

114. (currently amended) A shaping system, comprising:

a shaper positionable in a left ventricle of a human heart during use, wherein the shaper comprises a hollow, wherein the shaper is configurable to expand to a predetermined shape during use, ~~and~~ wherein the predetermined shape acts as a pattern to reconstruct the left ventricle about the shaper during use, and wherein the shaper is configured such that, when temporarily placed in the left ventricle during a surgical procedure, the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the left ventricle;

an expander positionable in the hollow of the shaper during use, wherein the expander is configurable to expand the shaper to the predetermined shape during use; and

a fluid positionable between the outer surface of the expander and an inner surface of the shaper during use.

115. (previously presented) The system of claim 114, wherein the expander is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the expander.

116. (previously presented) The system of claim 114, wherein the expander is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the expander, and wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the expander.

117. (previously presented) The system of claim 114, wherein the expander is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the expander, wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the expander, and wherein the fluid is a gel.

118. (previously presented) The system of claim 114, wherein the expander is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the expander, wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the expander, and wherein the fluid comprises silicone.

119. (previously presented) The system of claim 114, wherein at least the shaper is configured to inhibit expansion beyond a predetermined point.

120. (previously presented) The system of claim 114, wherein at least the shaper is configured to inhibit distortion of the predetermined shape when expanded.

121. (previously presented) The system of claim 114, further comprising a tube coupled to the expander, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the expander.

122. (previously presented) The system of claim 114, further comprising a tube coupled to the expander, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the expander from a pressurized fluid reservoir.

123. (previously presented) The system of claim 114, further comprising a tube coupled to the expander, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the expander from a pressurized fluid reservoir, and further comprising a valve coupled to the tube, wherein the valve is configurable to maintain a pressure of the fluid.

124. (currently amended) A shaping system, comprising:

a shaper positionable in a left ventricle of a human heart during use, wherein the shaper ~~is configurable to expand to~~comprises a predetermined shape ~~during use, and~~ wherein the predetermined shape acts as a pattern to reconstruct the left ventricle about the shaper during use, and wherein the shaper is configured such that, when temporarily placed in the left ventricle during a surgical procedure, the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the left ventricle; and

at least one or more spacers positioned on the outer surface of the shaper.

125. (previously presented) The system of claim 124, wherein the spacers are configured to inhibit perforation of the shaper during use.

126. (previously presented) The system of claim 124, wherein the shaper comprises an expandable balloon.

127. (previously presented) The system of claim 124, wherein the spacers are coupled to the outer surface of the shaper.

128. (previously presented) The system of claim 124, wherein the spacers are formed as part of the outer surface of the shaper.

129. (previously presented) The system of claim 124, wherein the shaper is configurable to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the shaper.

130. (previously presented) The system of claim 124, wherein the shaper is configurable to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the shaper, and wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the shaper to the predetermined shape.

131. (previously presented) The system of claim 124, wherein the shaper is configurable to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the shaper, wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the shaper to the predetermined shape, and wherein the fluid is a gel.

132. (previously presented) The system of claim 124, wherein the shaper is configurable to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the shaper, wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the shaper to the predetermined shape, and wherein the fluid comprises silicone.

133. (previously presented) The system of claim 124, wherein the shaper is configured to inhibit expansion beyond a predetermined point.

134. (previously presented) The system of claim 124, wherein the shaper is configured to inhibit distortion of the predetermined shape when expanded.

135. (previously presented) The system of claim 124, further comprising a tube coupled to the shaper, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the shaper.

136. (previously presented) The system of claim 124, further comprising a tube coupled to the shaper, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the shaper from a pressurized fluid reservoir.

137. (previously presented) The system of claim 124, further comprising a tube coupled to the shaper, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the shaper from a pressurized fluid reservoir, and further comprising a valve coupled to the tube, wherein the valve is configurable to maintain a pressure of the fluid.

138. (currently amended) A shaping system, comprising:

a shaper positionable in a left ventricle of a human heart during use, wherein the shaper ~~is configurable to expand to~~comprises a predetermined shape ~~during use~~, wherein the predetermined shape acts as a pattern to reconstruct the left ventricle about the shaper during use, wherein the shaper is configured such that, when temporarily placed in the left ventricle during a surgical procedure, the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the left ventricle, and wherein a first portion of the shaper has a first wall thickness;

wherein a second portion of the shaper comprises a second wall thickness greater than the first wall thickness, and wherein the shaper is configured to inhibit perforation of the shaper during use.

139. (previously presented) The system of claim 138, wherein the second portion comprises a self sealing material.

140. (previously presented) The system of claim 138, wherein the second portion comprises a self sealing material, and wherein the self sealing material comprises self sealing latex rubber.

141-145 (cancelled)

146. (currently amended) A shaping system, comprising:

a shaper having a size substantially similar to the size of an appropriate left ventricle of a human heart, wherein the shaper is adapted to be temporarily placed into an enlarged left ventricle during use, and wherein the shaper is configured such that, when temporarily placed in the enlarged left ventricle during a surgical procedure, the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the enlarged left ventricle.

147. (previously presented) The system of claim 146, wherein the shaper comprises an expandable balloon.

148. (previously presented) The system of claim 146, wherein the shaper comprises a predetermined contour.

149. (previously presented) The system of claim 146, wherein the shaper is configured to

contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the shaper, and wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the shaper to a predetermined shape.

150. (previously presented) The system of claim 146, wherein the shaper is configured to inhibit expansion beyond a predetermined point.

151. (previously presented) The system of claim 146, wherein the shaper is configured to inhibit distortion of a predetermined shape when expanded.

152. (previously presented) The system of claim 146, further comprising a tube coupled to the shaper, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the shaper from a pressurized fluid reservoir.

153. (previously presented) The system of claim 146, wherein the shaper is expanded to a predetermined shape.

154. (previously presented) The system of claim 146, wherein the shaper has a short axis and a long axis, and wherein the ratio of the short axis to the long axis is from about 0.3 to about 0.7.

155. (previously presented) The system of claim 146, wherein the shaper comprises a wire mesh.

156. (previously presented) The system of claim 146, wherein the shaper further comprises at least two flexible elongated members, and wherein at least one of the elongated members is configurable to bend forming a predetermined shape.

157. (currently amended) A shaping system, comprising:

a shaper having a shape substantially similar to the shape of an appropriate left ventricle of a human heart, wherein the shaper is adapted to be temporarily placed into an enlarged left ventricle during use, and wherein the shaper is configured such that, when temporarily placed in the enlarged left ventricle during a surgical procedure, the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the enlarged left ventricle.

158. (previously presented) The system of claim 157, wherein the shaper comprises an expandable balloon.

159. (previously presented) The system of claim 157, wherein the shaper comprises a predetermined contour.

160. (previously presented) The system of claim 157, wherein the shaper is configured to contain at least one fluid in at least a portion of the shaper, and wherein the fluid is configurable to expand the shaper to a predetermined shape.

161. (previously presented) The system of claim 157, wherein the shaper is configured to inhibit expansion beyond a predetermined point.

162. (previously presented) The system of claim 157, wherein the shaper is configured to inhibit distortion of a predetermined shape when expanded.

163. (previously presented) The system of claim 157, further comprising a tube coupled to the shaper, wherein the tube is configurable to convey a fluid to the shaper from a pressurized fluid reservoir.

164. (previously presented) The system of claim 157, wherein the shaper is expanded to a predetermined shape.

165. (previously presented) The system of claim 157, wherein the shaper has a short axis and a long axis, and wherein the ratio of the short axis to the long axis is from about 0.3 to about 0.7.

166-167 (cancelled)

168. (currently amended) A method for reshaping a left ventricle of a human heart, comprising:

positioning a shaper in the left ventricle;

~~expanding the shaper to a predetermined shape;~~ and

reshaping at least a portion of the left ventricle about the shaper such that at least a portion of the left ventricle substantially conforms to ~~the~~ a predetermined shape of the shaper.

169. (currently amended) The method of claim 168, wherein at least a portion of the left ventricle substantially corresponds to~~mimics~~ the predetermined shape of the shaper.

170. (previously presented) The method of claim 168, further comprising:

determining a demarcation line between non-viable tissue and viable tissue;

excluding at least some of the non-viable tissue;

placing at least one suture along at least a portion of the demarcation line; and

pulling the suture such that the left ventricle is pulled around the shaper.

171. (previously presented) The method of claim 170, wherein the determining of the demarcation line further comprises engaging a wall of the left ventricle of a beating heart to

sense tactile feedback.

172. (previously presented) The method of claim 170, wherein the determining of the demarcation line further comprises visually determining akinetic and viable tissue.

173. (previously presented) The method of claim 170, wherein the determining of the demarcation line further comprises detecting electrical pulses from viable tissue.

174. (previously presented) The method of claim 168, further comprising suturing a patch to an interior of the left ventricle.

175. (previously presented) The method of claim 170, further comprising suturing a patch along at least a portion of one of the demarcation lines.

176. (currently amended) The method of claim 168, further comprising excluding scar tissue from ~~the~~ viable tissue.

177. (previously presented) A method for reshaping a left ventricle of a heart, comprising:

positioning a shaper in the left ventricle;

positioning a gel in a hollow of the shaper to expand the shaper to a predetermined shape; and

reshaping at least a portion of the left ventricle about the shaper such that at least a portion of the left ventricle substantially conforms to the predetermined shape of the shaper.

178. (currently amended) The method of claim 177, wherein at least a portion of the left ventricle substantially corresponds to~~mimics~~ the predetermined shape of the shaper.

179. (previously presented) The method of claim 177, further comprising:
determining a demarcation line between non-viable tissue and viable tissue;
excluding at least some of the non-viable tissue;
placing at least one suture along at least a portion of the demarcation line; and
pulling the suture such that the left ventricle is pulled around the shaper.

180. (previously presented) The method of claim 179, wherein the determining of the demarcation line further comprises engaging a wall of the left ventricle of a beating heart to sense tactile feedback.

181. (previously presented) The method of claim 179, wherein the determining of the demarcation line further comprises visually determining akinetic and viable tissue.

182. (previously presented) The method of claim 179, wherein the determining of the demarcation line further comprises detecting electrical pulses from viable tissue.

183. (previously presented) The method of claim 177, further comprising suturing a patch to an interior of the left ventricle.

184. (previously presented) The method of claim 179, further comprising suturing a patch along at least a portion of one of the demarcation lines.

185. (currently amended) The method of claim 177, further comprising excluding scar tissue from ~~the~~ viable tissue.

186. (currently amended) A method for reshaping a left ventricle of a human heart, comprising:

positioning a shaper in the left ventricle;

expanding an expander positioned in a hollow of the shaper to expand the shaper to a predetermined shape; and

reshaping at least a portion of the left ventricle about the shaper such that at least a portion of the left ventricle substantially conforms to the predetermined shape of the shaper.

187. (currently amended) The method of claim 186, wherein at least a portion of the left ventricle substantially corresponds to~~mimics~~ the predetermined shape of the shaper.

188. (previously presented) The method of claim 186, further comprising:

determining a demarcation line between non-viable tissue and viable tissue;

excluding at least some of the non-viable tissue;

placing at least one suture along at least a portion of the demarcation line; and

pulling the suture such that the left ventricle is pulled around the shaper.

189. (previously presented) The method of claim 188, wherein the determining of the demarcation line further comprises engaging a wall of the left ventricle of a beating heart to sense tactile feedback.

190. (previously presented) The method of claim 188, wherein the determining of the demarcation line further comprises visually determining akinetic and viable tissue.

191. (previously presented) The method of claim 188, wherein the determining of the demarcation line further comprises detecting electrical pulses from viable tissue.

192. (previously presented) The method of claim 186, further comprising suturing a patch to an interior of the left ventricle.

193. (previously presented) The method of claim 188, further comprising suturing a patch along at least a portion of one of the demarcation lines.

194. (currently amended) The method of claim 186, further comprising excluding scar tissue from ~~the~~ viable tissue.

195. (new) The device of claim 1, wherein the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model upon which the enlarged left ventricle can be shaped.

196. (new) The device of claim 1, wherein the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model upon which the enlarged left ventricle can be contoured.

197. (new) The device of claim 1, wherein the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model upon which the enlarged left ventricle can be sized.

198. (new) The device of claim 1, wherein the shaper has sufficient wall thickness such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the enlarged left ventricle.

199. (new) The device of claim 1, wherein the shaper inhibits being substantially deformed during left ventricle reconstruction such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the enlarged left ventricle.

200. (new) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model upon which the enlarged left ventricle can be shaped.

201. (new) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that

the shaper can be used as a model upon which the enlarged left ventricle can be contoured.

202. (new) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model upon which the enlarged left ventricle can be sized.

203. (new) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper has sufficient wall thickness such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the enlarged left ventricle.

204. (new) The system of claim 49, wherein the shaper inhibits being substantially deformed during left ventricle reconstruction such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the enlarged left ventricle.

205. (new) The system of claim 146, wherein the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model upon which the enlarged left ventricle can be shaped.

206. (new) The system of claim 146, wherein the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model upon which the enlarged left ventricle can be contoured.

207. (new) The system of claim 146, wherein the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model upon which the enlarged left ventricle can be sized.

208. (new) The system of claim 146, wherein the shaper has sufficient wall thickness such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the enlarged left ventricle.

209. (new) The system of claim 146, wherein the shaper inhibits being substantially deformed during left ventricle reconstruction such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the enlarged left ventricle.

210. (new) The system of claim 157, wherein the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model upon which the enlarged left ventricle can be shaped.

211. (new) The system of claim 157, wherein the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model upon which the enlarged left ventricle can be contoured.

212. (new) The system of claim 157, wherein the shaper exhibits sufficient firmness such that the shaper can be used as a model upon which the enlarged left ventricle can be sized.

213. (new) The system of claim 157, wherein the shaper has sufficient wall thickness such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the enlarged left ventricle.

214. (new) The system of claim 157, wherein the shaper inhibits being substantially deformed during left ventricle reconstruction such that the shaper can be used as a model to reconstruct the enlarged left ventricle.

215. (new) A method for reshaping a left ventricle of a human heart, comprising:

positioning a shaper in the left ventricle, wherein the left ventricle has a first shape;

using the shaper as a model to reshape at least a portion of the left ventricle such that the reshaped left ventricle has a second shape; and

removing the shaper from the left ventricle.

216. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein the second shape is substantially similar to the shape of an appropriate left ventricle of a heart.

217. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein the first shape is the shape of an enlarged left

ventricle of a heart.

218. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein the first shape is substantially spherical.

219. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein the first shape comprises a greater volume relative to the second shape.

220. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein at least a portion of the second shape substantially corresponds to at least a portion of a size of the shaper.

221. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein at least a portion of the second shape substantially corresponds to at least a portion of a shape of the shaper.

222. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein at least a portion of the second shape substantially corresponds to at least a portion of a size of the shaper, and wherein at least a portion of the second shape substantially corresponds to at least a portion of a shape of the shaper.

223. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein the shaper has a short axis and a long axis.

224. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein the shaper has a short axis and a long axis, and wherein the ratio of the short axis to the long axis is about 0.3 to about 0.7.

225. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein the shaper is substantially ellipsoid in shape.

226. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein the shaper is substantially conical in shape.

227. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein the shaper is substantially pear shaped.

228. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein the shaper is substantially tear drop shaped.

229. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein the reshaping comprises pressing at least a portion of the left ventricle against the shaper.

230. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein the reshaping comprises using the firmness of the shaper to resist deformation of the shaper when at least a portion of the left ventricle is pressed against the shaper.

231. (new) The method of claim 215, further comprising determining a demarcation line between non-viable tissue and viable tissue of the left ventricle.

232. (new) The method of claim 215, further comprising demarking between non-viable tissue and viable tissue of the left ventricle.

233. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein the reshaping comprises pressing at least a portion of the left ventricle against the shaper and using the firmness of the shaper to resist deformation of the shaper when at least a portion of the left ventricle is pressed against the shaper.

234. (new) The method of claim 215, further comprising demarking between non-viable tissue and viable tissue of the left ventricle, and wherein the reshaping comprises pressing at least a portion of the left ventricle against the shaper and using the firmness of the shaper to resist deformation of the shaper when at least a portion of the left ventricle is pressed against the shaper.

235. (new) The method of claim 215, wherein the reshaping comprises pressing at least a portion of the left ventricle against the shaper and using the firmness of the shaper to resist deformation of the shaper when at least a portion of the left ventricle is pressed against the shaper, and further comprising attaching a patch to at least a portion of the left ventricle.

236. (new) The method of claim 215, further comprising:

engaging a wall of the left ventricle of a beating heart to sense tactile feedback; and

determining a demarcation line between non-viable tissue and viable tissue of the left ventricle.

237. (new) The method of claim 215, further comprising:

visually determining akinetic and viable tissue; and

determining a demarcation line between non-viable tissue and viable tissue of the left ventricle.

238. (new) The method of claim 215, further comprising:

detecting electrical pulses from viable tissue; and

determining a demarcation line between non-viable tissue and viable tissue of the left ventricle.

239. (new) The method of claim 215, further comprising excluding at least some of the non-viable tissue of the left ventricle.

240. (new) The method of claim 215, further comprising:

determining a demarcation line between non-viable tissue and viable tissue of the left ventricle; and

excluding at least some of the non-viable tissue;

placing at least one suture along at least a portion of the demarcation line; and

pulling the suture such that the left ventricle is pulled around the shaper.

241. (new) The method of claim 240, further comprising attaching a patch along at least a portion of one of the demarcation lines.

242. (new) The method of claim 240, further comprising suturing a patch along at least a portion of one of the demarcation lines.

243. (new) The method of claim 215, further comprising attaching a patch to an interior of the left ventricle.

244. (new) The method of claim 215, further comprising suturing a patch to an interior of the left ventricle.

245. (new) The method of claim 215, further comprising excluding scar tissue from viable tissue of the left ventricle.